

Preliminary Ideas for Pilot Study to Improve Utilization of Data Produced for Urban Water Management Plans

The California Department of Water Resources is implementing recommendations contained in the *California Water Plan Update 2005*. One of the recommendations in the implementation plan is “Recommendation 11 – Improve Water Data Management and Scientific Understanding” (attached for reference). This recommendation evolved from the recognition that:

California needs better data and analytical tools to produce useful and more integrated information on water quality, environmental objectives, economic performance, social equity objectives, and surface water and groundwater interaction. Today, it is difficult to compare, much less integrate, water data and information from different local entities to understand and resolve regional and statewide water management issues. **To make significant progress toward a more comprehensive scientific understanding, California needs to create a new information exchange and management system and more integrated analytical tools** that can be used to document and share knowledge as it is developed.¹

In cooperation with the Statewide Water Analysis Network (SWAN) advisory group, DWR agreed to begin the effort of improving information exchange by exploring how information produced for Urban Water Management Plans could be utilized more effectively to support regional and statewide planning efforts. DWR staff and consultants are now working to scope a pilot study that will be performed in 2007. DWR plans to conduct the pilot study with a few representative water agencies, water wholesalers, and regional planning entities located in different parts of the state. The pilot study will attempt to:

- Improve communication between DWR and the entities gathering and reporting water resources related information
- Identify areas of potential synthesis between data and information required for
 - Urban Water Management Plans
 - Integrated Regional Water Management Plans
 - Water Use Efficiency Implementation
 - California Water Plan Updates
- Work in partnership with subject matter experts, water agencies, wholesalers, and regional planning entities to identify and test methods to improve integration and sharing of planning data and streamline efforts required to gather and report this information
- Identify data related concerns and challenges faced by regional planning entities when planning to meet future urban water demands
- Produce a report by December 2007 with recommendations for improving the utilization of data produced for Urban Water Management Plans

DWR is looking for a few representative water agencies and associated regional planning entities to help scope the details of this pilot study.

¹ *California Water Plan Update 2005*, Volume 1: Chapter 4, p 4.4.